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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: CHURCHILL et al. Docket No: 18567-0011
Serial No: 09/422,114 Group Art Unit: 3628
Filed: October 20, 1999 Examiner: Graham, Clement B.
For: AUCTION REDEMPTION SYSTEM AND METHOD

Box Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed May 23, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks:

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims 15-37:

- ch 15 (NEW) A point-based auction system comprising:
- 1 a database storing a first account representing a number of incentive points awarded to a
- 2 first user and a second account representing a number of incentive points awarded to a second
- 3 user;
- 4
- 5 a communications port operatively connected to the first user and the second user;
- 6 a computer program or programs taking as input bids received from the first user and the
- 7 second user through the communications port, each bid constituting a number of incentive points
- 8 and relating to an item being auctioned, said program (a) checking each bid against the database
- 9 to confirm that the user submitting the bid owns at least the number of points specified in the bid,
- 10 (b) storing information identifying the current high bid, (c) reserving a number of points equal to
- 11 the current high bid from the account of the user who submitted that bid such that those points
- 12 may not be used for any other purpose until unreserved, (d) unreserving reserved points once a

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